

MONTGOMERY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
CONSULTANTS

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November 24, 2008

Mr. Joe Helfrich  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

RECEIVED

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Dear Mr. Helfrich,

DIV. OF OIL, GAS &amp; MINING

Montgomery Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (MOAC) conducted archaeological excavations, from November 12 through 16, 2008, at site 42Ka2044 following the approved data recovery and research design developed for the mitigation of site 42Ka2044 (see Stavish 2008). Prior to beginning fieldwork, all necessary permission and permits were received by MOAC from the surface lease holder, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Governor's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO), and the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (UDOGM). Excavation at site 42Ka2044 indicated that sub-surface cultural materials were almost exclusively recovered from the upper stratigraphic layer, a loosely compacted sandy silt, and the site appeared primarily surficial in nature. Additionally, the second stratigraphic layer, a heavily compacted clayey silt with a blocky structure, was culturally sterile.

Work at site 42Ka2044 resulted in the excavation of 40 m<sup>2</sup>; the amount of fill removed from this site was 13.6 m<sup>3</sup>. Prior to excavation, all surface artifacts were collected and provenanced using a Trimble ProXH with a Zephyr antenna. Feature A, a firecracked rock concentration identified in the research design was examined. However, during excavation of a 1-x-2-m unit placed over this feature only firecracked rock artifact from the surface and top 5 cm below datum were observed. During the excavation of Feature A, no soil staining or discoloration, thermal alteration, charcoal, or feature morphology were observed. Excavation across the site resulted in the collection of 118 sub-surface artifacts located almost entirely within the top two level of the units (0 to 20 cm below unit datum), with the exception of units 3S 5E and 7N 13W. Artifacts recovered from this site include lithic debitage, a side-notched projectile point, a Sudden side-notched projectile point, groundstone, biface fragments, a drill fragment, lithic cores, firecracked rock, and a single sherd of Virgin Anasazi Plain Grayware ceramic. The majority of excavated units were terminated after two or four levels, having reached a sterile horizon. Unit 3S 5E appears to have been impacted by chaining activities, as is evidenced by a grayish brown layer with numerous organic detritus and burned root fragments. The artifacts recovered from unit 3S 5E, a total of 65 artifacts, are likely not in situ and were recovered from 10 to 50 cm below the unit datum. The south half of Unit 7N 13W is located in the disturbed area of a two-track road, which has been eroded resulting in a distinct slope within the excavation unit, and is impacted by heavy bioturbation in the form of tree roots and animal burrows.

No human remains, burials, or known objects of cultural patrimony were identified during the excavation.

In summary, all the excavation objectives outlined in the data recovery plan were met during the 5 days spent excavating at site 42Ka2044. Furthermore, data and samples necessary to address the research questions and hypotheses in the research design were also collected.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Montgomery  
Principal Investigatorcc: Kelly Beck, Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, SLC  
Lori Hunsaker, Utah State Historic Preservation Office, SLC  
Matt Zweifel, BLM GSENM Field Office  
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